



The Continental Chronicle

Valley Forge Initiates Leasing Program in 2005

In the near future, Valley Forge National Historical Park will publicly Request Expressions of Interest to lease buildings within Valley Forge National Historical Park. We have 74 historic buildings and numerous other non-historic structures under our care and protection ranging from estates to farmhouses and barns to early worker's cottages. In the spirit of stewardship and the best interests of the management of Valley Forge NHP, park administration is exploring new opportunities provided by revised leasing authority.

The main focus of the Valley Forge National Historical Park leasing initiative is historic preservation. 36 CFR, Part 18, Leasing of Properties in Park Areas, allows for the leasing of National Park Service property to public and private parties for reuse. There are many potential benefits that may be realized by leasing. These include increasing financial value of Park assets by transforming underutilized property into income-generators which can help fund repairs, renovation, maintenance and infrastructure in the park. Buildings can be modernized and park facilities refurbished with private sector development expertise and financing. Long-term leasing can ensure

assets continue to be well-maintained and consistent with the National Park Service mission. Additionally, leasing can promote community enhancements and economic growth in the local community.

Valley Forge National Historical Park will only offer leases on properties that are consistent with the purposes and values of the park. In most cases, the lease will require restoration or rehabilitation of the building(s). All work conducted on the buildings will be carefully monitored by park personnel. Leases must have as short a term possible, taking into account the financial obligations of the lessee and other factors related to determining an appropriate lease term. The minimum lease term is 1- day and the maximum is 60- years. A tax incentive may be available for historically designated, income producing properties that are leased for a minimum of 39 ½ years.

The Request for Expressions of Interest will be broadly advertised to promote market competition and encourage innovative ideas for suggested building reuse. Following the Request for Expressions of Interest, a Request for Proposals will be advertised and made available to all parties interested in leasing. All offerors will then be given the opportunity to make a formal presentation to the park as to the viability of their ideas, their qualifications to accomplish their plan, their financial capability, and the amount of market rent they are projecting to pay. An evaluation panel will make written recommendations to the Regional Director as to the relative merits of the proposals as part of the decision process.

Valley Forge National Historical Park hopes the local and national communities will embrace and participate in future leasing opportunities soon to be available at the park. Please do not miss this unique opportunity to be a part of this truly innovative and significant project at Valley



Walnut Hill barn located on the north side of the Schuylkill River.

Forge NHP by sharing with us your best ideas on building reuse which could espouse education, culture, hospitality, or conferencing – just for starters! Watch our website (www.nps.gov/vafo) for your opportunity to provide comments on the leasing program at Valley Forge NHP.



Saturday, September 24, 2005
9 am to 1 pm

Volunteer to preserve America's lands. Organizations, corporations, and individuals are invited to get involved in this volunteer opportunity to share in the experience of improving and caring for the natural and cultural resources of the park. No matter what your skill level is, all are welcome to participate in many hands-on projects involving improving wildlife habitat, removing invasive plants, protecting natural and cultural resources, trails preservation, restoring facilities, ... and much more! Come see the environmental and conservation exhibits and displays. Learn about the unique natural resources that the park has to offer by taking a guided nature hike. To learn how you or your group can sponsor or participate in a project, call 610-783-1044.



Steuben Memorial Information Center (SMIC)
on Route 23.

Message from the Superintendent

Our summer season is underway at Valley Forge National Historical Park and a great deal of activity will be going on over the next few months. The park was fortunate to receive additional funding this year to support visitor services. Our summer programming season has been expanded from 8 weeks last year to 10 weeks this year, running from June 19 to August 27. We have hired additional seasonal employees to enhance our visitor and educational programming. For example, we are working in partnership with The Great Valley Nature Center to expand their summer camp program by offering two classes each week. The Welcome Center's hours will stay open one hour later until 6 pm during the 10 week summer season. Roving rangers will be located throughout the park to offer information and answer questions for visitors. From the Welcome Center each day, we will have 3 walking tours and 3 guided bus tours in cooperation with the American Revolution Center and we will also have increased programming at the Muhlenberg's Brigade area.

This summer we are also completing projects that will reduce our maintenance backlog. Park staff will work on structural stabilization and install a new roof on Knox's stables as well as painting of the exterior on the Walnut Hill tenant house. The park also has several contractors working this summer. Projects include an upgrade to the elevator in the Welcome Center in order to meet the latest ADA standards; the replacement of the roofs on Stirling's Quarters, Maxwell's Quarters, Philander Chase Knox Garage, Rogers Building portico, and the maintenance building. Contracts have also been awarded for structural stabilization on the Massachusetts Monument; a structural assessment report of Knox's Quarters; an Historic Structures Report of Stirling's Quarters; and the rehabilitation of the Thomas House Garage (maintenance building) for winter and expanded use. We can also thank volunteers Ernest Eadeh and the Wayne Rotary Club for painting the corn crib at Knox's stables and in a few months they will paint Knox stables when re-roofing is done.

As you can see, we will be very busy over the summer! I want to thank all volunteers and park staff whose dedication and hard work make Valley Forge NHP a special place.

- Mike Caldwell

Bats at Valley Forge

A new species is detected!

A long-awaited bat survey is currently underway at Valley Forge National Historical Park. The park has been inventorying the vascular plants and vertebrate animals that inhabit the park since the late 1980's; inventories of our plants, fish, amphibians, birds and reptiles were conducted in the late 1990's and small mammals in 2004. This year's survey is the park's first scientific inventory of bats, and we are really excited about it! Inventories of organisms that inhabit national parks are critical to the National Park Service's ability to meet its mission objectives of "preserving, protecting and maintaining the health of park ecosystems" for future generations. The best way to achieve this mission is to conduct inventories that target groups of organisms, such as bats or fish, in all national parks that support wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy was contracted to perform bat inventories not only at Valley Forge NHP, but also Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Gettysburg National Military Park, and Eisenhower National Historic Site. The Nature Conservancy's Mammologist, Jim Hart, is working with Natural Resource Management at Valley Forge NHP to coordinate the surveys, select sites, recruit volunteers, and provide interpretive opportunities for all who are interested.

A total of five survey periods are scheduled, and we just completed our first surveys in May and June. Two tall nets were established in Valley Creek and a smaller net was established across Stirling's Run before sunset. We awaited sunset to open the nets and within about 15 minutes of the nets being open, we started catching bats in the mist nets! We continued to survey until about 11 pm each night and then closed the nets. Captured bats were identified to species and various body measurements were recorded, including weight, forelimb length, hind foot length, and tragus (a fleshy projection in a bat's ear) length. Once all the bats were processed, they were released to return to their regularly scheduled activities – feeding on insects! We captured and processed a total of 17 bats and three species of bats – one of which is a new species record for Valley Forge NHP. Linda Boice (from the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove) had



A Mammologist holds a red bat (new species of bat discovered at Valley Forge NHP, June 8, 2005).

previously reported that the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) occurred within the park. We confirmed these two species and then found that a single long ear bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was captured in our net as well. Long ear bats are far less abundant than the little brown bats and their distributions are localized and irregular throughout the state. In comparison to other bat species, far less is known about the ecology and behavior of long ear bats.

JOIN US!! Volunteers and observers are welcome to join the survey crew each survey night at Valley Forge NHP or Hopewell Furnace NHS. Surveys at these parks are tentatively planned for two nights during each of the following periods: July 5- 15, July 25- August 5, and August 22- September 2, 2005. Contact Natural Resource Management for more information at (610) 783- 1041 or vafo_resource_management@nps.gov. Also, an afternoon interpretive program about bats is being co- sponsored by the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Learn more about bats of Pennsylvania anytime on- line by visiting the PA Game Commission's website: <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us>.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park

1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1009
Web site: www.nps.gov/vafo
Email: vafo_superintendent@nps.gov

Park Welcome Center
610-783-1099

Park Headquarters
(610) 783-1000
fax (610) 783-1053

Park Loses a Beloved Friend

Betty Ann Koontz, age 76, of Plymouth Meeting died on March 25, 2005. She served as a volunteer here at Valley Forge for more than 25 years, a longer association with the park than most of the staff. She made many contributions of time and talent over the years, and most recently, she assisted Scott Houting with historical research and interpretation of historical documents.

Betty Ann was a woman of many skills and lived an exciting life. Born in Philadelphia, she graduated with the class of 1946 from Roxborough High School. She then attended the former Lankenau School in Mt. Airy and Andicott College in Massachusetts. She was skillful in painting and needlework and enjoyed many forms of crafts and art.

She is survived by her husband, daughter, and granddaughter. Betty Ann will surely be missed by her family and all of us here at Valley Forge National Historical Park. The park is working with her family to determine the appropriate way to recognize her hard work.

People News

Within the last month several new faces have join us here at Valley Forge National Historical Park. Three seasonal park rangers, **Todd Lacey**, **Peter Maugle**, and **Rebecca Daull** have joined the division of visitor services. Todd Lacey is returning to the park for a third summer. In 2003 he volunteered through the Student Conservation Association and now is returning for a second summer as a seasonal park ranger. Peter Maugle volunteered his time at the park for two years before his appointment. Peter also is an employee of the Encampment Store, operated by our partner the American Revolution Center. Rebecca Daull is a teacher from West Chester, PA.

We have several Student Conservation Association (SCA) members joining us this summer. **Laura Kenny**, **Julia Glover**, **Jason Collins**, **Adam Lewandowski**,

Margaret McKay, **Heather Paul** will conduct bus tours, provide interpretation throughout the park, and staff the park's Welcome Center desk. **Courtney Quirin** will work with natural resources.

Ranger Lewis Rogers received a promotion and is now our new Chief Park Ranger, Chief of Visitor Services. He has worked for the National Park Service since 1984 and at Valley Forge since 1997.

Congratulations to **Paula Risell** who received a permanent promotion to the position of Supervisory Park Ranger on May 29, 2005. She began temporarily filling the position in November of 2004.

Welcome to **Nina Rowe** who joined the Division of Planning and Resource Management as a summer volunteer intern serving in the position of Public Affairs Specialist. Nina has volunteered at the park for two years.

Kim Szewczyk of the National Park Service Northeast Regional Office is serving as our Realty Specialist to initiate our new property leasing program (see article on page 1). She will be here through July.

David Borzick resigned from his position as Programs Support Assistant in the Visitors Services Division in June 2005 to pursue a career in the private sector. He began working at the park in 1996 after retiring from the U.S. Army. Good luck!

Doug Germeraad retired from the Park Service in June 2005. He worked for the federal government for 28 years. He worked for the National Park Service for 13 of those years and began working at Valley Forge NHP in February of 1992. Best wishes!

Daniel Carl has joined us for the next year serving as our Transportation Scholar. Dan's expertise and professional background will help us work with partners on the region's congestion, as well as on plans for traffic calming, shuttles and bicycle use in the park.

Law enforcement ranger **Audrey Fortin** left the Park to accept a position at Shenandoah National Park effective June 12, 2005. She served four years in the federal government and joined us at Valley Forge in April 2002.

Goodbye to law enforcement ranger **Croce Volpe** who retired from the park on April 29, 2005 after working here since 1988.

Welcome to **Mike Valora** who is a newly hired law enforcement ranger at the park. He comes to us from Independence National Park.

Welcome to **Andrew Murphy**, **Jeffrey Bransford**, and **William Stark** who will spend the summer at Valley Forge working on the park's business plan.

VIP Spotlight



Name: Arlene Osborne

Age: 72

Residence: King of Prussia, PA

Family: husband; two children; three grandchildren

Occupation: Retired registered nurse

Special Interests/ Hobbies: Gardening, reading, travel. I like historical things - hence my interest in Valley Forge.

How long have you been an interpretation volunteer at Valley Forge? 8 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? I used to go to The Friends of Valley Forge summer lunch series. They recruited for summer volunteers at Varnum's and that's how I started.

What is the most interesting thing you have done in your life? I bumped into David McCullough getting off the elevator when he spoke at the Welcome Center. I said that I really enjoyed his John Adams book and he told me how charming I looked in my 18th century outfit.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I'd like to go on a cruise to all the Hawaiian Islands.

Where did you grow up? I've lived here for 40 some years. I was born in New Jersey and my parents move around a bit. We lived in Bethlehem and moved to Philadelphia.

Volunteers Take Part in Saluting the Revolutionary War Alliance with France

On Saturday, May 7th, volunteers joined with park staff to commemorate the Continental Army's salute to the Revolutionary War alliance with France, which originally took place at Valley Forge on May 6th, 1778. On that date, elements of the Continental Army formed up on the Grand Parade ground and fired a series of artillery and musket salutes to the new alliance.

The park event was held on a portion of the same ground used for the original salute, Conway's Brigade area adjacent to the Grand Parade. The park's 3- pounder gun and a small line of infantry recreated in miniature the salutes fired by the Continental Army 227 years ago. Bruce Baky, portraying a general officer, served as the ranking officer on the field. Bill Freilich and Art Sattolo helped crew the 3- pounder, while former seasonal Rich Howett volunteered to serve as the gun- captain. Former Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern Emily Bould returned to volunteer on the infantry line, while Christina Cassidy and Frances LaPenna



Volunteers and staff demonstrate muskets and artillery during the French Alliance event.

represented the campfollower presence and helped secure black powder firing zones. Overall, approximately 50% of the costumed interpreters on the field were volunteers.

Over 500 visitors attended the French Alliance event, and it certainly is safe to say that it could not have been presented in the manner that it was without the capable assistance of volunteers.

Volunteers Wanted

August 6, 2005

Women and Children in Camp Program

Volunteers are needed to help with hands-on activities for kids. The bake oven will also be operating that day. Bill Lange will give talks on the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments.

If you'd like to help with this program, contact Ajena Rogers at 610-783-1064 or ajena_rogers@nps.gov.

Celebrating Trails and Health!

The National Park Service joined with the Montgomery County Parks Department and national business sponsor Eastern Mountain Sports to host a National Trails Day Celebration at Valley Forge National Historical Park, Betzwood picnic area, on Saturday, June 4, 2005, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

At Valley Forge, multiple educational clinics, fitness assessments, hikes and other fun activities gave visitors a variety of experiences and showcased the diverse benefits trails offer.

Visitors enjoyed educational exhibits and displays presented by many clubs and organizations. Representatives from health, fitness, environmental and conservation organizations were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Volunteers from area schools, trail clubs and Boy Scout troops conducted a trail clean- up project along the river and cut back overgrown vegetation to help preserve the Schuylkill River Trail.

Volunteers donated 712 hours to Valley Forge NHP during this event. We want to give special thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, and organizations that joined to celebrate this important public event.



Seasonal Ranger Peter Maugle leads a group of trail enthusiasts on a History Hike during National Trails Day, June 4, 2005.

The Friends of Valley Forge



DIGITIZATION PROGRAM:

Valley Forge NHP is excited to announce that on March 9, 2005 the Friends of Valley Forge presented the park with a grant for \$1,500 allowing for the digitization of the important three volume 1980 Valley Forge Report.

The three-volume report gives a detailed account of the 1777-1778 winter encampment at Valley Forge. The researchers spent approximately five years gathering sources and interpreting documents. Unfortunately, the park has a limited quantity of the manuscripts. This grant will allow the manuscript to be digitalized so that it can be reproduced and distributed in large numbers.

Valley Forge National Historical Park is very much appreciative of this generous gift.

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES:

The Friends of Valley Forge, in cooperation with the National Park Service, will again sponsor a lunch time speaker series. Bring a bag lunch and spend an hour learning about the history of Valley Forge and the people and events of the American Revolution. Each week features a different topic and speaker. So enjoy your lunch and feed your mind!

Education Center, 12:30pm to 1:30pm

June 29 - "Life in a Hut" by Bruce Baky

July 6 - "Acquiring Gentility" by Dona McDermott

July 13 - "George Washington" by Ashley Hunter

July 20 - "Commerce by the Creek" by Rick Wolf

July 27 - "Thomas Jones of Tredyffrin" by Mike Bertram

Ranger's Choice: Book Selections

The "Lower Sort" Philadelphia's Laboring People , 1750- 1800

by Billy G. Smith

The author does a great job in recreating the daily lives of the laboring men and women living in young America's most bustling city, Philadelphia. The book carries us through time allowing us to witness mid- eighteenth century America during the Seven Years War. We experience the turbulent events leading up to the American Revolution and its drops us off into the first decade of a newly founded United States of America. Billy G. Smith invites the reader to experience how the "lower sort" or working class citizens struggled to live meaningful lives during a time of great strife and changes. Recommended by Interpretive Ranger Bill Troppman.

Indian Paths of Pennsylvania

by Paul Wallace

Historian Paul Wallace conducted major historical research in an effort to better understand ancient Indian trails of Pennsylvania. This book provides the reader with an easy to understand description of Indian history and the importance of these paths. This 227 page book is loaded with illustrations to provide for a easy reading and comprehension experience. Wallace illustrates over 130 Indian paths laid out over present day roads. This book is a great source for anyone interested in early Pennsylvania Indian history. Recommended by Interpretive Ranger Ajena Rogers.

Volunteers & Park Safety



On a number of different occasions, volunteers have found and reported significant safety problems in the park. For example, in the spring of 2004, a volunteer doing biology work noticed some pieces of asbestos cement board at an old dumpsite in the drainage above the Covered Bridge Parking Lot. She reported it and since then the park has removed over 1200 pounds of asbestos from the drainage. Further investigation of the dump found lead contamination in the soil. Soil clean up will be completed this summer, eliminating a potential threat to the waters of Valley Creek.

Another volunteer noticed that the chimney on one of the park huts along Outer Line Drive was in danger of collapsing and reported it. The chimney was demolished before it could fall and injure a visitor. From his website, pictured here are a Cub Scout and his companions during a trip to the park. They are inside the chimney before it was taken down, a very dangerous situation.

A park volunteer at Maintenance takes his personal safety seriously. He always wears his safety gear, whether it is safety glasses, hearing protection, or traffic vest. His commitment to safety has inspired other park workers wear their safety gear as well and has lead to an overall improvement in safety.

These are just three examples of the dozens that occur each year where park volunteers have made a difference in the safety of both visitors and other park workers. If you see a hazard in the park, please report it to Ranger Dispatch at 610- 783- 1011 or the Park Safety Officer at 610- 296- 2583. Thanks again for making a difference in park safety.

AmeriCorps*NCCC Preserve Park Trails For Today and Future Generations

Valley Forge National Historical Park was fortunate to be selected to host an AmeriCorps*NCCC team here at the park. Over the course of 30 days the team contributed a great amount of time and energy to help preserve the park's treasured trails.

AmeriCorps*NCCC is a network of national service programs that, with the help of more than 50,000 Americans each year, serves local communities by providing educational, health, safety, and environmental services.

Led by Chad Kuehn, the 11- member team installed 13 waterbars and 25 checkbars along the Horse- Shoe Trail and 14 checkbars along the Chapel Trail. Their hard work will help to prevent future erosion of the trails.

The AmeriCorp*NCCC team lived and worked in the park this last month. The team also enjoyed many outings with park staff and volunteers. They participated in a historical hike within the park, a nature walk, and were able to tour Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park. Team member Alex Hill said "everyone here in the park has been so nice to us. This experience has been tons of fun and I'm sure we'll never forget it."



AmeriCorps*NCCC team members take a break from trails work on Horse-Shoe Trail: (front row) Lynn Ferrell, Mandy Mason, (middle row) Stacy Mallard, Alexandra Hill, Lindsey Rawson, (back row) Greg Cotter, Valley Forge NHP Trails Supervisor Ernestine White, Christina Culp, and Chad Kuehn.

Superintendent Mike Caldwell said, "I'm so impressed. This team has so much energy and dedication and has made an amazing amount of progress along the trails. This was a tremendous gift to everyone who uses the park's trails."

Deer Population Decrease Still Insufficient

This year's annual spring deer count was a success due to the great response of Valley Forge National Historical Park's volunteers and staff. Twenty-one people volunteered to help - 11 volunteers and 10 park employees. We conducted the count on April 18, 19 and 21, 2005.

Each April since 1997, the park has conducted spring deer counts to estimate the size of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) population within the park boundary. On three evenings in late April, park staff and volunteers drive five survey routes within the park to count the total number of individual deer they observed along their routes for one hour. At the end of the night, the counts from each of the five routes are summed. Not every deer in the park is positioned in the open, where observers can count them; after all, some deer may remain in wooded areas and some may be lying down in the tall grass meadow just over a hill.

How does the park estimate the population size when some deer are not out in the open to be counted? From 1997



Herd of deer at Valley Forge NHP.

through 1999, The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) conducted scientific research by radiotracking deer within and surrounding the park to estimate population size and movement patterns of these individuals. A sample of deer was marked with ear-tags or collars. When PSU conducted the first three annual spring deer counts, they recorded how many marked deer they observed, knowing how many deer they had marked during the course of the study. They calculated a sighting index by dividing the total number of deer observed each spring deer count night by the total number of marked deer known to occur in the park. The resultant sighting index value of 0.58 means that we may assume that during an annual spring deer count,

approximately 58% of all the deer within the park are observed and counted. This also means that approximately 42% of the deer within the park are typically not seen during an annual spring deer count. As a result, the total number of deer counted during an annual spring deer count total is adjusted to more accurately estimate the size of the deer population within the park.

This year we counted 757, 713 and 689 deer on each of the three count nights; the mean (average) number of deer observed during this count was 720 deer per night. Using this number and the sighting index, this year's population estimate is 1241 ± 59 deer in the park. Using this population estimate, the density of deer at Valley Forge National Historical Park is estimated at 248 per square mile; the park is approximately five square miles in area. Although the 2005 population estimate is lower than the estimate for 2004, the deer population at the park remains elevated far above deer densities that would allow forest regeneration.

In the upcoming General Management Plan (GMP) the preferred alternative recognizes the need to manage the deer population.

Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator Valley Forge National Historical Park

Michelle Ortwein
610-783-1044 phone
michelle_ortwein@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/vafo Click on "Volunteer"

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Editors

Michelle Ortwein
Nina Rowe

Contributors

Meghan Carfioli
Earl Cram
George Matlack
Pam McLay
Michelle Ortwein
Nina Rowe
Kim Szewczyk
Ernestine White

Comments? Write to:

Michael A. Caldwell, Superintendent
Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1009

Picture Gallery



Left: Volunteer Fran LaPenna helps with "Spring Cleaning" in Washington's Headquarters.



Above: Instructor Antonia Nocero shows a great horned owl wing and red-tailed hawk wing during the April 30 "For the Birds" training presented by Valley Forge NHP and Mill Grove Audubon Center.



Left: Participants of the "Late 18th Century Women's and Children's Caps" workshop held April 9, 2005: (front row) JoAnne Kinter, Mary Ellen Flynn, April Hostler; (back row) Kathy King, class instructor Deborah Peterson, Arlene Osborne, Beth Arnold, Michelle Ortwein.